



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 7, 2015

WHAT: 26th Annual Friends of the Fine Arts Center Gala & Auction

WHEN: Saturday, February 7th, 2015, 6 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.

WHERE: Student Union, UMass Amherst Campus
Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or
go online to www.fineartscenter.com/Online/gala

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THE 26TH ANNUAL FRIENDS OF THE FINE ARTS CENTER GALA TURNS UP THE HEAT WITH RED HOT THEME

It's time for the 26th Annual Friends of the Fine Arts Center's Benefit Gala, Auction and Preview at the Student Union, Saturday, February 7th, 6 to 11:30 p.m. Just in time to melt some of the ice that has covered the Valley, the theme for this year's Gala is **Red Hot!** Guests are invited to wear a red tie and their most smokin' attire. And in keeping with the theme, there will be "red carpet" photos sponsored by The Davis Financial Group and dani.fine photography. The Gala will offer reserved tables for dinner provided by UMass' award-winning Catering Services, a silent and live auction, and then dancing to [Fever](#), a local party band playing disco, jazz, funk, rock, pop and reggae, complete with a full horn section. The Gala sold out last year so folks are encouraged to buy their tickets early. All proceeds from the gala allow FAC to provide greater Access to the Arts through Angel Tickets, Tickets for Kids or Artist in Residency programs. According to Development Director John Ebbets, "The Gala is a fun event that supports the FAC's core work of exposing the arts to many throughout our communities."

The evening begins with cocktails, appetizers, and music in the Student Union Foyer and Cape Cod Lounge. Guests will be able to view the live and silent auction packages throughout the Student Union. Dinner starts at 8 p.m., with a quick snap-shot

of the Fine Arts Center's 2015-16 40th Anniversary season. Dancing follows the live auction in the Ballroom. The auction will be bustling with plenty of treasures of fine art, original creations, getaways, vacation homes, themed baskets and more all donated from local businesses and artists. To keep updated of who's attending and what's up for bid, "like" the [Fine Arts Center Gala page](#) on Facebook and share with friends.

The Gala raises funds to provide access and deeper engagement with the arts to our diverse and the multi-generational communities throughout the Pioneer Valley in a variety of ways. Every season, the Fine Arts Center's Angel Ticket Program provides complimentary tickets to residents in the tri-county area whose financial and/or social situation would otherwise prohibit them from experiencing live performances. Funds also go to support the Global Arts programs for K-12 student performances, artists-in-residency workshops, Jazz in July scholarships and internships at the University Museum. Volunteers and board members Justin Pelis and JoAnne Finck are co-chairing this event. For those can't make it to the event but would like to support those programs, please consider the FAC's FUND-A-NEED program. Details are available online at www.fineartscenter.com/development/give or by calling 413-545-4253.

Tickets for the Gala event are \$125 per person and include a \$75 tax-deductible contribution. Corporate sponsorships are available starting at \$500. For more information, please call the Friends of the Fine Arts Center at 413-545-4253. For tickets to the event, call the box office at 413-545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS. For more details about the event go online to www.fineartscenter.com/gala. Free Parking—valet or self-park available in Campus Center Garage. For those who would like to stay the night the UMass Hotel is offering a special "Gala" accommodation package available by calling the hotel at 413-549-6000.

Presenting sponsors for the Gala include United Personnel Services and UMass Catering Services. The Gala's Leading Sponsor is John J. McCarthy, Vice Provost & Dean of the UMass Graduate School. Red Carpet is sponsored by The Davis Financial Group and dani.fine photography. Additional support comes from these Sustaining Sponsors: Baystate Health, BeSeen Leadership, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Finck & Perras Insurance, Five Star Building Co., Florence Savings Bank, Fresh Point, Greenfield Radiology Associates P.C., Hampden Bank, Horizon Beverages, PeoplesBank, Performance Food Group, PeterPan, The Valley Advocate, WEIB 106.3 Smooth FM, UMass Amherst Alumni Association, and Quad/Print.

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